

In 1976 the Indiana Regional Minority Supplier Development Council was responsible for generating about 6 million dollars' worth of business between the large and small companies. By 1982 that figure had grown to \$38,800,000. All this meant expanding employment opportunities and expanding businesses which have proved their capacity to endure and continue contributing to our economy.

All Hoosiers and, in a larger sense, all Americans are the beneficiaries of this fine organization which under the leadership of Donald Jones is obviously here to stay and one more reason why the American free enterprise system is also here to stay.

#### CITIZENS FROM FORT WORTH EARN EDUCATIONAL HONORS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 28, 1996*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge two outstanding citizens from the city of Fort Worth who have won national education honors and made themselves shining examples to their community.

When Shirley Knox-Benton, who is the principal of Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, first arrived at the school she encountered a situation where students were unable to learn. Gang violence was rampant, trash was everywhere, and good students were afraid to shine.

Mr. Speaker, along with the invaluable help from some dedicated parents, Mrs. Knox-Benton turned Dunbar High around. That success has not gone unnoticed, as this week Mrs. Knox-Benton was notified that she had won a 1996 Reader's Digest American Hero in Education award along with a \$10,000 check for Dunbar High and \$5,000 for herself.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Knox-Benton is the first Fort Worth winner in this 8-year program. She was chosen from a pool of 650 nominees nationwide. Her commitment to excellence, and her leadership at this critical time in our Nation's education system both deserve the highest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to honor a student at Dunbar High, senior Kim Wood. Mr. Wood is the only student in the Fort Worth school district to win a National Achievement Scholarship for Black Americans.

Mr. Wood won the award by scoring in the 98th percentile among all juniors nationwide and in the top 3 percent among black students on the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test.

Mr. Speaker, by winning these national honors, Mrs. Knox-Benton and Mr. Wood have held themselves up as shining examples of what can be accomplished through hard work and a dedication to success. I wish them both the best in their future endeavors.

#### NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES ACT OF 1996

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 28, 1996*

Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 which is being introduced today by Congressman STEVEN LATOURETTE and Senator JOHN GLENN to establish a national voluntary ballast management program for vessels visiting U.S. ports. In addition to ballast management, this legislation will provide for research, education, and new technology to investigate and prevent species introduction in coastal and inland waters.

Aquatic species invasion is of tremendous concern in the San Francisco Bay/Delta Estuary. According to a recent report, the San Francisco Bay and the entire Delta is now considered "the most invaded aquatic ecosystem in North America."

Current estimates indicate that an average of at least one new species is established every 12 weeks in the Bay, posing serious threats to the Bay ecosystem and economy. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on controlling introduced species, and there are other expenses, such as reduced shipping efficiency due to hull fouling species and damages to piers from wood boring species.

The most disturbing cost of introduced species is the extinction or regional eradication of native species in the Estuary through competition and predation from introduced species. Introduced species have contributed to the extinction of some species of California freshwater fish and are now strongly contributing to the further demise of some endangered marsh birds and mammals. One introduced species, the Chinese mitten crab, can multiply so prolifically that it poses a threat to the Bay-Delta Estuary's ecology, agriculture, and water agencies. The presence of this species and other introduced species have lead to increasing restrictions on channel dredging, levee maintenance, water diversions, and other economic activities in and near the Estuary, with costly implications for the whole of California's economy.

The ballast water of commercial vessels is a leading vector by which nonindigenous species enter U.S. waters. Cargo vessels arrive with thousands of tons of ballast water used to achieve the necessary trim and stability for ocean voyage. The ballast water contains eggs, larvae, and other marine organisms which are released in port depending on a vessel's cargo-loading requirements. One vessel could discharge tens of millions of viable organisms in San Francisco Bay. Hundreds of cargo vessels arrive each year in the Bay, establishing essentially a "biotic corridor" for species invasions in this coastal area. Ballast exchange can reduce the probability of ballast transfers of these non-native species.

There is tremendous support for Mr. LATOURETTE's bill among environmental groups, water agencies, and state and federal agencies in the Bay Area and throughout the country. Understanding the patterns of species invasions and reducing the occurrence of those invasions is imperative in promoting the economic and ecological health of our coastal

resources. I encourage members to join me in supporting this legislation.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF BETTY BOYER

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 28, 1996*

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Betty Boyer, a legend in Illinois journalism who is retiring this month. In 1966, she started her own newspaper, the Coles County Daily Times, in Charleston, IL, because she was not satisfied with the quality of local news reporting. You can imagine what the reaction was to such an enterprise at that time. Despite her detractors, Betty not only survived, but thrived, and in the process raised the standard for news coverage in the area. I would like to congratulate her on a distinguished career, and also thank her for her contributions to the quality of life in the 19th District.

Betty started her journalism career working for the other paper in town, The Courier-News. After a couple of years with the Times, Betty purchased the competition, and in 1969 formed the Times-Courier. She sold the paper to Howard Publications in 1972, but remained there to run the show, same as before. Perhaps Betty's most extraordinary quality is her diverse character. Regarded by all as sweet-natured, she is a loving wife and mother of three, and also has six grandchildren. She is equally known for her tough stances in dealing with city officials who objected to her straight-ahead style of journalism. Add to that the talented and professional staff who worked for her, many of whom moved on to larger arenas, that still consider her a magnificent boss, if not a surrogate mother. The stories of Betty desperately seeking bank loans or saving the paper supply from a flooded basement have joined a canon that encompasses a career of over 30 years. In addition to her journalistic accomplishments, Betty was named the "Outstanding Citizen" in 1982 by the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce and has been a patron of the local arts.

Mr. Speaker, conventional wisdom says that you cannot believe everything you read. Regular readers of the Times-Courier beg to differ. Thankfully, the quality Betty has worked so hard to achieve will be with us for a long time. It has been an honor to represent Betty Boyer in the U.S. Congress, I wish her every happiness as she enters this new stage of her life.

#### TRIBUTE TO LOUIS PATAKI

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 28, 1996*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the Hudson Valley and the people of my congressional district sustained a tremendous loss this week when Louis Pataki, father of New York Governor George Pataki, passed away.

A life-long resident of the Hudson Valley, Mr. Pataki was born in Peekskill, NY, into a family of Hungarian immigrants. It was in